

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 10577 150927Z

ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 HA-05 SCS-06 CU-04 IO-13 /087 W

-----052344 150930Z /20

P 150844Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8210

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 10577

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS SHUM KS US

SUBJ: WELFARE OF YI CHAE-O (AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL)

REF: STATE 296527

SUMMARY: YI'S WIFE HAS RECENTLY REPORTED TO AI/K THAT YI IS IN MUCH BETTER HEALTH. FIRST APPEALS HEARING REDUCED HIS SENTENCE TO ONE AND ONE-HALF YEARS. END SUMMARY.

1. DIRECTOR OF KOREAN COMMITTEE OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL (AI), REV. YUN HYON, TOLD EMBOFF DECEMBER 14 THAT YI CHAE-O (LEE JAE-OH) IS FORMER HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER WHO WAS FIRED IN DECEMBER 1976 AFTER SOME OF HIS STUDENTS PRESENTED A SKIT REPRESENTING PRESIDENT CARTER ADMONISHING SEVERAL AMBASSADORS, INCLUDING ROK'S, ON HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN THEIR COUNTRIES. YI WAS ARRESTED MARCH 9, 1977 AND CHARGED UNDER EM-9 WITH DISTORTION OF FACT AND SPREADING GROUNDLESS RUMORS, IN CONNECTION WITH THE SKIT AND ANTI-GOVERNMENT HANDBILLS FOUND IN SEOUL IN JANUARY 1977. YUN SAID YI DENIED CHARGES IN COURT.

2. YI'S WIFE BROUGHT CASE TO YUN'S ATTENTION LAST JUNE, WITH PETITION ON BEHALF OF HER HUSBAND WHICH MENTIONED THAT YI HAD SUFFERED FROM PERITONITIS EVEN BEFORE HIS ARREST. YI'S WIFE VISITED YUN AGAIN ON DECEMBER 1, REPORTING
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THAT SHE HAD SEEN HER HUSBAND AND HE WAS IN MUCH BETTER HEALTH. TRIAL ON HIS FIRST APPEAL WAS HELD NOVEMBER 30 AND RESULTED IN REDUCTION OF HIS SENTENCE TO ONE AND ONE-HALF YEARS. YI'S SECOND APPEAL IS PENDING BEFORE SUPREME COURT. IF USUAL PRACTICE IS FOLLOWED AND ALL PRISONER'S TIME SERVED IS COUNTED, YI WOULD COMPLETE HIS PRESENT SENTENCE IN SEPTEMBER 1978.

SNEIDER

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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